

OFFICE
OF THE
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

REPORT

FOR

1991

INTRODUCTION

Section 46(4) of the Elections Act provides that the Supervisor of Elections shall, at the end of each year, cause to be printed, a report on the by-election held during the year, such report to provide information similar to that for the report on the general election.

There was no by-election in 1991 and, accordingly, there appeared to be no need for such a report. However, a brief administrative Report is presented herein, in respect of the Office of the Supervisor of Elections for the year 1991.

Supervisor of Elections

THE REPORT

Immediately following the 1990 General Election the Office of the Supervisor of Election was obliged to find new accommodation as that used during the General Election had to be returned to its owners, the BVI Tourist Board, by the 31st December, 1990.

Efforts to find suitable alternative accommodation were unsuccessful and the office was returned to the Registrar's Office in the Ward's Building where it occupies one unventilated room which is most unsuitable. Had it not been air-conditioned the temperature would be intolerable.

There is an adjoining room where the ballot boxes are stored. That room remains locked.

It is expected that when the New Administration Complex is completed, more appropriate accommodation will be provided either in that building or in one of the buildings which will be vacated at that time.

Only two items associated with the 1990 General Elections remained to be finalized during the year namely, the submission of a claim by one candidate for his nomination deposit and the destruction of the election

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documents.

In 1991, the office was provided with a lump sum budget of \$5,000. This sum was intended to cover the cost of salary for the Supervisor of Elections and other office expenses including telephone expenses, publications and so on. The amount provided was augmented during the year by an additional \$5,000 making a total of \$10,000 which was enough to cover all expenses and leave a small balance. (See Appendix I).

The Senior Executive Officer continued to be paid by the Registrar's Office as did the cost of cleaning the office.

The office that was a bee-hive of activity during the 1990 General Elections was, during the period in question, unable to provide full employment for the one officer (Senior Executive Officer) who is assigned to the office on a full-time basis. Accordingly, to fill her day, she spent her spare time working at the Companies Registry and used the "call-forward" feature on the office telephone to transfer calls to the Companies Registry. During the year, she also assisted the Registry of Births & Deaths as **necessary. The Supervisor of Elections was at the office** once or twice a week. More often, if necessary. Drafting work was usually done at home and brought to the office for

typing. Any other communication was by telephone.

The major concern of the Office during the year had to do with the registration of voters as provided by the Election Act, 1977 No. 7 of 1977 as amended by the Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 6 of 1990. Section 6(1) of the Act provides for the registration of persons who become eligible for registration, and the Supervisor of Elections is required by Section 3A(1)(c) to publish a notice in the Gazette at least once every three months, requesting all persons who are qualified under section 31(1) of the Constitution to register.

Such a notice was published on five(5) occasions during 1991. At each such publication, a news release was also sent to the Department of Information with a request that it be published through the media.

The Supervisor of Elections participated in a radio interview with the Government Information Service and also made an appeal to the qualified public, through Cable TV Channel 11. The radio interview was re-broadcast once and the TV appeal remained on the screen for at least three months.

In spite of all these efforts, registration has had little appeal for the general public and, accordingly, only

four (4) persons came forward for registration during the year - 2 from the First district, 1 from the Fifth and 1 from the Seventh (see Appendix II).

The office also kept the Voters List up-to-date by deleting the name of any voter resident in the British Virgin Islands, who died during the year. A total of 44 such names, representing the 9 electoral districts, were removed during the year (see Appendix III). These numbers include only 4 voters who resided in the US Virgin Islands. An attempt will be made in 1992 to carry out research aimed at obtaining an accurate number of deceased voters who were resident in the US Virgin Islands. In addition, 61 persons were found to have double registration and the necessary adjustment was made (see Appendix IV). The voters concerned were asked to state their place of residence and their names were placed on the appropriate lists.

During the year consideration was given to the production of an educational brochure similar to the one produced in the United Kingdom. It was thought that such a brochure, designed and printed to a high standard, would be a useful tool for educating the public concerning the election process. However, it appeared that it might be a waste of **resources to take such action before it became clear what decisions the Government** had made in response to recommendations in the 1990 General Election Report as they

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pertained to the Election Act, 1977. At year end this information was still awaited.

Consideration was also given to the production of a poster which, hopefully, would be sufficiently eye-catching to remind the public of their right and duty to register. During the year, discussion commenced with the Chief Information Officer on the design of such a poster. It should be available in 1992.

APPENDIX I

1991 Budget

Budgetary Provision

Head E.5:25 Election Expenses

(Departmental Warrant No. 1 \$5,000
of 1991)

Additional Provision 5,000

Total \$10,000.00

Expenditure

Salaries 7,800.00

Communication costs 743.20

Publication Costs 130.00

Office & General Expenses 69.33

Total \$ 8,747.53

Balance \$ 1,252.47

APPENDIX II

Voter Registration 1991

First District	2
Second District	0
Third District	0
Fourth District	0
Fifth District	1
Sixth District	0
Seventh District	1
Eighth District	0
Ninth District	0
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Total	4
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APPENDIX III

Deletions on Account of Death of Voters

First District	8
Second District	3
Third District	5
Fourth District	4
Fifth District	2
Sixth District	4
Seventh District	4
Eighth District	7
Ninth District	7
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Total	44
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